में कोई घायल नहीं हुआ । जो चारों माननीय सदस्य हैं वे स्वस्थ रहे यह कामना मैं करता हूं । आपके माध्यम से मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार कम से कम ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था करे कि जब कम से कम वर्तमान सदन के सदस्य जाये तो इस तरह की घटनाएं वहां पर न हों ।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (बिहार)) : यह मालवीय जी ने बहुत ही आवश्यक और बड़ी चिंताजनक बात कही है. . . (**व्यवधान**) हमें बड़ा दुख हो रहा है ।

उपसभापति : आप इसे डिसकशन मत बनाइये । (**व्यवधान**) ठीक है, बस हो गयी बात ।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : मैं चाहता हूं कि गृह मंत्री जी इस पर बयान दे. . . (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : बस बात हो गयी । आपने कह दिया । बैठीये ।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : यह सदन की गरिमा का प्रश्न है । हमारे माननीय सदस्य उसमें शामिल है । इसलिए हम चाहते है कि गृह मंत्री महोदया इस पर बयान दें क्योंकि यह सदन के सदस्यों का मामला है. . (**व्यवधान**) यह सदन की गरिमा का सवाल है. . . .

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : चार सदस्यों का मामला है. . . (व्यवधान)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : (Pondicherry) : They are shedding crocodile tears.

उपसभापति : सलीम साहब बैठिये । Mr. Narayanasamy, it is not necessary that you make a comment on everything that is spoken in the House. The Members have raised concern about Members. खाली मेम्बरों की सुरक्षा नहीं सब जनों की सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी होती है ।

I have to ask Members one thing. I have got three names for Zero Hour which the Chairman has cleared. But we have the reply of the Minister also. After these three people have spoken, if the House so agrees, I will ask the Minister to give his reply. Then we can have the special mentions. I think the discussion was very important and we should get the reply of the Minister and not leave it for the afternoon. If the House agrees, fine.

Leakage of Gas in Bokaro Steel Plant

श्री जनार्दन यादव (बिहार) : महोदया, बिहार में जो बोकारो में स्टील प्लांट है ।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (बिहार) : मैडम, यह मेडन स्पीच हो रही है ।

डॉ. बापू कालदाते (महाराष्ट्र) : कल बोले हैं ।

श्री जनार्दन यादव : दस तारीख को साढ़े तीन बजे प्लांट के अंदर जो धमन भट्टी है उसमें गैस लीकेज हो गया । तीन आदमी तुरंत मर गये, 36 आदमी घायल हो गये और पांच मरने पर है । बोकारो स्टील प्लांट में यह घटना पहली बार नहीं हुई है । एक साल के अंदर यह चौथी बार हुई है । मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि वहां के प्रबंधन के गलत व्यवस्था के चलते जो अंदर काम कर रहा है उसकी जान हमेशा खतरे में रहती है । अगर प्रबन्धन और सरकार दोनों इस पर ध्यान नहीं देंगे तो भोपाल गैस कांड जैसी त्रासदी बोकारो में हो सकती है । उस कांड में मरने वाले परिवारों को पांच-पांच लाख रुपया क्षतिपूर्ति की जाए तथा उनके परिवार के एक-एक सदस्य को बोकारो प्रबन्धन नौकरी दे । मैं आपके माध्यम से आग्रह करना चाहता हूं कि सरकार हाउस में आ करके बोकारो की इस तफसील के बारे में बताए कि बोकारो में क्या स्थिति है । उस प्लांट के बाहर भी लोग भयभीत हैं । इसलिए सरकार से मैं आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि हाउस में अपना जवाब दें ।

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal) : Madam, I associate myself with it . . . (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No associations, please. Yes, Mr. Minister, you wanted to say something.

CLARIFICATION BY THE MINISTER

RBI's Order for Non-issue of Overdraft to Uttar Pradesh Government

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Madam, I understand that yesterday a question was raised about suspension of payments to the Government of Uttar Pradesh by the Reserve Bank on 15th April, 1994 . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Meghalaya) : Also in Nagaland . . . (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Just a minute, please. Please don't disturb. I hate this habit. Even when the Minister is speaking, everybody interrupts. You can put your questions later on. Let him finish. He hasn't finished one sentence even.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I have ascertained the facts from the Reserve Bank of India. This arose because of a short credit of Rs. 320 crores which was not reported by the State Bank of India to the Reserve Bank of India. The Reserve Bank of India is looking into this matter. In fact, they have asked the Chairman of the State Bank of India to make a report latest by 30th of April. The Reserve Bank has also sent an Executive Director to Lucknow. I do agree that this has caused a very grave inconvenience to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. This should not have happened. The State Bank of India will look into this matter.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Madam...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No questions, please ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL : There were questions about other States also and they include Nagaland. Why has he mentioned about Uttar Pradesh only ?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : In the case of Nagaland, whatever action has been taken is in accordance with the provisions of the Overdraft Regulations Scheme.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA (Uttar Pradesh) : Madam, I would request that the Reserve Bank should be asked not to publicise these things. This does not benefit anybody but only harms the interests of the traders and businessmen.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (वेस्ट बेंगाल) : महोदया, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा रुपया जमा करवाने के बावजूद भी एकाउंट में दर्शाया नहीं गया।.... **(व्यवधान)**

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal) : Madam, I am raising an issue which is of great importance to the country as well as this House. The Finance Minister made a statement last week and this statement was about convertibility of the rupee. He said that within the next two years the rupee convertibility would be extended to capital accounts. It is a very important statement because it has got a great bearing on the Indian economy as a whole. It will also give rise to all kinds of speculative movements. Now, unfortunately, this statement was made not inside the House, neither in this House nor in the other House but it was made outside the House, even though Parliament was in Session. Now the Minister may say, "No, no, we have been talking about full convertibility for a long time." The Minister may further say that there was a mention of it in the Economic Survey and things like that. He has talked about the need for full convertibility several times before. But the time-frame was never mentioned in any of his earlier statements. Now, in this statement, he has clearly stated that it will be done within two years. I feel that making such a statement outside the House violates the privileges of the Members of both the Houses. Although I am a new Member, I know it is a well-established convention that when Parliament is in Session, the Minister should not make such statements outside before keeping the House informed. This is all the more disturbing because this matter was taken up in one of the meetings of the Standing Committee of Finance. The matter was discussed threadbare with the officials of the Finance Ministry and we wanted an assurance from the officials that the Government would not take a hasty action in extending the rupee convertibility to capital accounts. because it can lead to ... (*Interruptions*) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, you have made your point. Don't make a long speech.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA : No, Madam. This is an important issue. Then, the officials concerned have given us a categorical assurance that there will be no question of India extending the convertibility to the capital account. They said they knew that it was very dangerous, it was risky and it would lead to all kinds of serious problems. Our country's foreign exchange reserves look very big, but it may disappear within a matter of 3-4 days just as it has happened in U.K. and other places. So, they said they

were not going in for this kind of policy hastily. They assured that without a lot of discussion, such a decision would not be taken in the foreseable future. This is the statement made by the officials of the Ministry of Finance a few days ago before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance. If this is so it appears that there is no co-ordination between the Finance Minister and the Finance Secretary and other officials. Then, how can the Ministry of Finance function when the Finance Minister makes a statement which is at variance with the statement made by his officials only a few days ago before a Parliamentary Committee? Or is it that the Finance Secretary was not saying the truth? If this is the case, then the Finance Minister should let us know why the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance was misled. In any case, I would like to know from the Finance Minister, since he is here, why the privilege of this House, a well-established convention of this House, was violated by him, why he did not think it fit to make the announcement in the House and why he chose to make such an announcement outside the House which was broadcast on television and through other media. Further what is the state of functioning of the Finance Ministry? We are very much worried about this because there is no co-ordination between the Finance Minister and his officials, there is no co-ordination between the Finance Minister and the Finance Secretary.

How can this country be run if this is the state of affairs in the Finance Ministry? I would like to have a clarification from the Finance Minister on this point.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Virendra Kataria... (*Interruptions*)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, you please direct the Minister to reply.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I did not promise you an answer from the Minister. I only promised to allow you to put your question... (*Interruptions*)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, why don't you direct the Minister to answer the question?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If I compel the Ministers to answer every question in the House, we will only have answers and there will be no questions.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: He has made an important policy statement outside the House, violating the privilege of this House ... (*Interruptions*) ... The Minister is sitting here. I would like him to answer the question ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar): This is Zero Hour and not Question Hour ... (*Interruptions*) ...

AN HON. MEMBER: Why should he answer this question?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Why did the Finance Minister violate the privilege of this House?

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA (Bihar): The Minister should react to his question. This is a very important issue.

उप सभापति : आप बोलिए, कटारिया जी ।

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, Ministers generally keep their mouths shut outside and open the same inside the House. But our Finance Minister is doing the other way round.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He did. आप बैठिए ! बिप्लव दासगुप्ताजी आप बैठिए Yesterday, there was a discussion. I thought it was serious, it was the concern of all the Members. I spoke to the Finance Minister. He came and explained. If ask the Minister to come and sit everyday I don't think we can run this House in an orderly manner. Now, let Mr. Kataria speak ... (*Interruptions*) ...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam Deputy Chairman, this is not a simple issue. This is an important question having a bearing on our economy.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say something, Mr. Finance Minister? ... (*Interruptions*) ... This is not proper. Don't pressurise the Minister... (*Interruptions*) ... Please sit down.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): The Finance Minister is a Member of this House. He should answer the question ... (*Interruptions*)...

आप बैठ तो जाइए । नहीं तो कोई बोलना भी चाहे तो बोलेगा कैसे ? आप बैठ तो जाइए ।

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Madam, I am grateful to the Hon. Members that they have brought this issue to my notice. I would like to clarify the issue. There was a general discussion with a group in which issue of convertibility of the rupee was raised. In this discussion, the question was : When are you going to move towards full capital account convertibility ? I said : No time-limit could be laid down. It all depends upon our capacity and ability to restore financial discipline and it cannot be done immediately. It may be done after two years.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra) : Yes, Madam.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : That was a vague statement. I have not made any policy statement. There is no disrespect to the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No more questions. I am not allowing ... (*Interruptions*) ... No discussion ... (*Interruptions*) ... I am happy that the Finance Minister volunteered to clarify the matter. As he said, it was no policy statement. So, there is no violation of the respect and honour of this august House. Now, Mr. Kataria.

श्री विरेन्द्र कटारिया : (पंजाब) मैडम, डिप्टी चेअरमैन, मैं आपकी तवज्जोह मिनिस्टरी आफ कम्युनिकेशन और खास तौर से टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट की जो धांधलियां है, उसकी तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूं । अपनी बात कहने से पहले मैं यहां एक शेर आपकी खिदमत में अर्ज करना चाहता हूं —

यहां पर फकत गूंगे और बहरे लोग बसते है ।
खुदा जाने यहां किस तरह जलसा हुआ होगा ।

उपसभापती : आई विश कि जो आपने शेर पढा, यह सही होता । न यहां कोई बहरा है, न गूंगा है ।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : (बिहार) मैडम, यह सरकार के बारे में कह रहे है, जो कि बिल्कूल सही बात है ।

श्री विरेन्द्र कटारिया : मैडम, बहुत दफे इसी हाऊस में बात आई है, जो टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट की हालते जारी है । एक पालियामेंट का मैम्बर कितना मजबूर है, उसका टेलीफोन काट दिया गया है एक महिने भर से और वह चिल्ला रहा है, लाइजन आफिसर के दफ्तर में बैठकर बात कर रहा है, वहां बता रहा है कि यह जिस बिल की बात करते है उसको पे किए हुए दस दिन हो गए है और दस दिन पहले बिल भुगतान करने के बाद भी टेलीफोन काट दिया जाता है उसको रेस्टोर नही किया जाता है । अब मै क्या कहूं । यह जो टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट है, यह एक मरज से नहीं बल्कि अनेको मरजों में मुबतला है । इसके लोग डिसकटियम्स है, टेलीफोन डेड रहते है, एस० टी० डी० काम नहीं करती, अगर बात करे तो दस आदमियों की आवाज सुनाई देती है, टेलीफोन के बिल इनफलेटेड आते है इनसे बात करिए तो कोई सुनवाई, कोई इलाज नहीं है । कितनी दफा भरे दिल से इनसे दरखास्त करते है । तो क्या इसका कोई इलाज है ।

मैडम, मैं आपकी तवज्जोह अपनी एक प्रोपलम की तरह दिलाना चाहता हूं । मै आवट आफ कण्ट्री गया हुआ था । जीनेसे पहले 28 मार्च को मैंने अपना टेलीफोनका एक बिल पे किया । उसकी तफसील मै आपको बताना चाहता हूं । मेरा टेलीफोन नंबर 378237 है, जो 5 जनवरी को खोला गया था । उसका पहला बिल, कई रिमाइण्डर जो मैंने दिए, 27 मई को मुझे भेजा गया । इसका जबाब मैंने दिया कि यह बिल्कुल गलत है, जिन बिलों का पैसे का आपने हवाला दिया वह सारा का सारा मैंने 7 मार्च 1993 को ही पे कर दिया है और उनकी यह रसीद नंबर है और आपने जो टेलीफोन का नंबर और एड्रेस लिखा है, उसको चेन्ज हुए मुद्दत हो गई है । इस लिखने के बाद, जो मैंने चिट्ठी लिखी, उसके जवाब में पांच महीने में मुझे 5,101 रुपए का बिल भेज दिया गया, जिसमें 3,021 रुपए रेण्ट के, 2,280 रुपए एडवान्स रेण्ट के और 800 रुपए इन्सटालेशन के थे । यह टोटली गलत थें क्योंकि न तो 2,280 रुपए एडवांस रेंट के मुझसे लिए जा सकते है क्योंकि मुझे हर दो महीने बाद बिल भेजा जाता है और न 800 रुपए इन्सटालेशन के, क्योंकि जब नया टेलीफोन इन्सटाल हो तो इन्सटालेशन चार्ज होता है । यह तो चार साल पहले से ही बर्क कर रहा है । इसके बावजूद मैंने यह बिल भर दिया 28 मार्च को । जब मैं अमरीका से वापस आया तो मेरी बेगम ने मुझे बताया कि टेलीफोन एक महीने से बंद है । एक महीने से बंद है तो मैंने पूछा कि किस वजह से बंद है ? .....

उपसभापती : आपने एक महीने अपनी बेगम से बात नही की अमरीका से ?

श्री वीरेंद्र कटारीया : मैडम डिप्टी चेयरमेन, आप तो हंस रही है, मैं कल सारा दिन रोया क्योंकि लाइजन आफीसर के दफ्तर में एक मैम्बर बैठकर कोशिश करता है कि उसका टेलीफोन जो गलत तौर पर काटा गया है, जिसका बिल उसने दिया हुआ है और उस बिल में भी पांच हजार में तीन हजार ज्यादा दिया हुआ है जो लगना नहीं चाहिए, उसके बाद भी वह अपना टेलीफोन नहीं

खुलवा सकता है । इसलिए मैं आज आपके दरबार में हाजिर हुआ हूं कि एक पार्लियामेंट का मैम्बर क्या करे ? जब इस तरीके से उसके साथ ज्यादती हो सकती है तो आम पब्लिक के साथ क्या होता होगा । यह बात मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूं । शुक्रिया

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, we will have reply by the Minister of Labour and after that, we will have the special mentions.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR—contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Madam, Deputy Chairperson, I am grateful to the House, particularly to the Hon. Members who participated in the debate on the working of the Labour Ministry. This has given an opportunity to highlight the problems of the working class in the country, both organised and unorganised, as well as the problems of unemployment which is the biggest problem facing the country today. The Hon. Members who have participated, have not only highlighted the various problems of the working class, they have made a number of constructive suggestions which, I am sure, will help in tackling the problems of the working class to a certain extent and will certainly lighten the burden of the Labour Ministry.

Before I go to the specific issues that have been raised on the floor of this House, I would like to record my deep appreciation for the co-operation of the working class, the co-operation extended to the Ministry by the central trade-union organisations, in keeping the industrial relations, by and large, peaceful, in the last one year on so—in the last three years for that matter.

I had been holding the charge of the Labour Ministry even earlier, in 1986 and 1987, and this is my second term. From the situation that obtained during 1986-87 when I first took over as Minister of Labour, and now, I can see a tremendous change in the attitude of the working class and in the attitude of the central trade-unions organisations. Our workers today have become very constructive. They realise that productivity is key to the success of our public enterprises as well as the private sector. Mr. Balanandan, Mr. Mathur and others have emphasised the point of productivity and I think today our working class do realise the importance of a new work culture, the importance of hard work and the importance of productivity and quality products. If we look at the scenario of industrial relations in the last 3 years, we find a very significant improvement. During 1987-88-89, if we look at the mandays lost due to strikes and lockouts, on an average, it was 33.58 million mandays. The subsequent year of 1991-92 has shown average mandays lost due to strikes and lockouts as 27.26 million, which means that there has been an improvement by about 20 per cent. Here, of course, I agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta who very rightly pointed out that if we look at the mandays lost due to strikes and mandays lost due to lockouts, we find that the figure of mandays lost due to lockouts was much higher than the mandays lost due to strikes. It only shows how constructive and how responsible our workers have become.

Madam, during 1993, strike notices were given in 444 cases. Out of these 444 cases, with the intervention of the Central industrial disputes mechanism that we have—the office of the Chief Labour Commissioner—we have been able to avert strike in as many as 415 cases. This is a tremendous achievement and I would like to take this occasion, this opportunity, to congratulate all those who have put in their efforts and skill in averting the strike in these cases, with the intervention of the Chief Labour Commissioner. (*Interruptions*)

Madam, if you look at the comparative figures of the mandays lost in the Central and in the State sphere, and if you look at the figures in respect of the public sector and the private sector, we find that the performance of the Central sector has been very good. I do not want to go into the details, to save the time of the House. I would only say that from a level of 4.29 million mandays lost in the Central sector, in 1989, it came down to 0.77 million mandays in 1992. I am just giving these figures to illustrate my